Feasibility study on coal gasification

2983. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: SHRI
DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has initiated action for commissioning a detailed feasibility report study for commercial implementation of coal gasification process;

(b) if so, the status of the report;

(c) whether ONGC is also exploring the possibility of coal gasification with a proven process technology for utilizing Indian coal; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) are carrying out a detailed feasibility study for a coal gasification project. GAIL have opted for the Shell coal gasification process and have commissioned UHDE India Limited to carry out the feasibility study with Shell technology.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Mining Research Centre, Skochinsky Institute of Mining (NMRC-SIM), Moscow, Russia for consultancy for an Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) project. The total agreed program of work for the UCG project will comprise six phases covering site selection, detailed evaluation of geological and hydroiogical data, preparation of the technical report, project design, construction of enterprise UCG, and its implementation. The planned duration of the project is 60 months. The total financial implication is US$ 15.32 million. In the first phase of the agreement, data of some coal fields will be analysed for identifying a suitable site for pilot testing the UCG process in shallow coals to start with.